

## **Minutes of the Finance Committee**

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014**

Chair Heinrich called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Jim Heinrich, Duane Paulson, Richard Morris, Steve Whittow, Bill Zaborowski, Eric Highum, and Larry Nelson.

**Also Present:** Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Health & Human Services Director Antwayne Robertson, Adolescent & Family Services Manager Peter Slesar, County Board Supervisor Kathleen Cummings, Mary Emory of the Waukesha Preservation Alliance, Matt Masterson of The *Freeman*, Medical Examiner Dr. Lynda Biedrzycki, Federated Library Director Connie Meyer, Budget Specialist Bill Duckwitz, Senior Financial Analysts Aaron Daul and Steve Trimborn, Parks & Land Use Director Dale Shaver, Engineering Services Manager Gary Evans, Public Works Director Allison Bussler, and Budget Manager Linda Witkowski. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

### **Public Comment**

Emory read aloud an email dated September 7 from Chip Brown of the Wisconsin Historical Society to Bussler opposing the demolition of the old Human Services Building. Cummings also spoke in opposition and felt the RFP process was flawed.

### **Approve Minutes of September 3**

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Zaborowski to approve the minutes of September 3. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Schedule Next Meeting Date**

- October 8

### **Chair's Executive Committee Report of September 8**

Mader highlighted the last Executive Committee meeting which included a review of proposed capital projects. Paulson and Nelson advised they also attended to comment on the Human Services Building demo project.

### **Ordinance 169-O-058: Accept State Of Wisconsin Department Of Justice Grant And Modify Waukesha County Department Of Health And Human Services' 2014 Budget To Authorize Grant Expenditures**

Slesar discussed this ordinance which authorizes the department to accept \$16,000 of Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funding from the State for 2014. The grant will be used to pay for a contract with Carroll University. A study by the university will evaluate the Adolescent & Family Services Division's data, determine how well the division is tracking factors that seem to play a role in repeat delinquency, evaluate how well the programs are working, and recommend improvements. The grant requires a local match of 10% which will consist of in-kind services to be performed by the department in support of the Carroll University study. This will be absorbed in the department's existing 2014 budget.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Highum to approve Ordinance 169-O-058. Motion carried 7-0.

**Ordinance 169-O-057: Approve Agreement With Walworth County For Waukesha County Medical Examiner Office To Provide Contract Medical Examiner Services And Appropriate 2014 Contract Revenue**

Biedrzycki discussed this ordinance as outlined which authorizes the County to enter into an intergovernmental agreement to provide contracted medical examiner services to Walworth County. The proposed contract is for five years with an automatic extension of an additional five years unless otherwise amended or terminated. Biedrzycki said the contract revenues will cover all costs associated with providing medical examiner services to Walworth and allow for the hiring of a much-needed Deputy Medical Examiner for Waukesha County. Biedrzycki discussed the need in detail. If approved, \$34,798 and \$362,065 in revenues will be included in the 2014 and 2015 budgets respectively. This ordinance results in no additional tax levy impact.

MOTION: Whittow moved, second by Paulson to approve Ordinance 169-O-057. Motion carried 7-0.

**Fund Transfer 2014-210-2: Federated Library – Transfer Funds from Fixed Assets (State/Federal/Misc. Fund) and Operating Expenses (CAFÉ Fund) to Fixed Assets (CAFÉ Fund) and Operating Expenses (State/Federal/Misc. Fund)**

Meyer and Trimborn were present to discuss this item which involves transferring \$40,400 to cover costs associated with purchasing the LEAP software program and local author e-book content. Funds are available as servers that had been budgeted for are no longer needed as the content can be uploaded and stored on OverDrive servers instead of purchasing a locally owned server. OverDrive is the vendor for Wisconsin's Digital Library.

MOTION: Nelson moved, second by Morris to approve Fund Transfer 2014-210-2, Federated Library. Motion carried 7-0.

**Ordinance 169-O-056: Authorize One-Time Adjustment To Library Tax Levy Distribution Formula For 2015 Budget Year Pursuant To County Code Of Ordinances Section 11-8(c) To Address The Dissolution Of The Sussex-Lisbon Library Agreement**

Meyer and Duckwitz discussed this ordinance as outlined which is a result of the Town of Lisbon's decision to dissolve its library agreement with the Village of Sussex effective at the end of 2014. It will allow for a one-time adjustment in the County formula that is used to distribute funds to member libraries for the County library tax. Meyer explained the complex funding distribution formula in detail and said while it works very well, this situation was particularly complex. She said budget staff worked diligently to ensure the funds will be distributed fairly to each member library.

Duckwitz said the special library tax is distinct and has no impact on the County General tax levy. It is levied on non-library communities to compensate for their citizens to use member libraries. Even with this one-time adjustment, the Sussex library will still receive a decrease of about \$58,000 from what they received last year.

Whittow said it appears some communities will experience a decrease while others will not. Duckwitz said all but two libraries lent out to Lisbon residents the previous year and they will receive an adjustment to meet the minimum funding requirements outlined in the State Statutes. In some cases it is not enough to make up for what they would have lost because in certain circumstances libraries get a little less each year from the regular formula which is based on materials lent to other communities.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Nelson to approve Ordinance 169-O-056. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Review Revenue Section of the Capital Projects Plan**

Duckwitz explained the revenues and fund balances for each capital project as outlined in the 2015-2019 Capital Projects Plan. Duckwitz answered questions pertaining to a \$10,000 donation for automatic doors at the airport, additional revenues budgeted in 2017 for the Communications Center, TIF funding for project 201007, and how jail assessment fees will be allocated for two law enforcement related capital projects.

### **Annual Update on Grant/Sunset Positions**

Witkowski referred to her report titled “Sunset Position Changes from the 2013 Annual Report as of August 2014.” Sunset positions are funded by grants and if these grants are reduced or eliminated, the positions are reduced or terminated accordingly. Changes from the August 2013 report include 2.0 RFT social worker positions created in May of 2014 and one 0.50 RPT Program Assistant position created in November of 2013.

### **Review Proposed Capital Projects: a) #13 – Demolish Former H&HS Building; b) #18 – CTH M, CTH YY to East County Line; and c) #32 – CTH O, I-94 to USH 18**

**#13 (Demolish Former H&HS Building)** – Bussler discussed the project which was discussed in length by both the Public Works and Executive committees. Maintaining the building costs the County more than \$70,000 each year. A previous resolution approved by the County Board directed that the building be put up for sale for two months and the County would retain the land.

Whittow was conflicted and questioned why this couldn’t wait. He said the \$70,000 a year to maintain it was a pittance compared to the \$3 million it will cost to raze it. He also questioned whether the RFP was fair and why the building had to be moved. He said we have since learned that there are developers interested in rehabbing that building. He wondered why the rush and thought the project should be slowed down. The reason for keeping the land, according to staff, was to use it for future government use although many of his constituents are opposed to more government. Bussler said it was important to note that the County purchased that land in 1972 for \$1 million in taxpayer money and is worth over \$3 million today. She felt it was important we protect the citizens’ investment and having this land will save money in the future. For example, if the County had to move the jail off-campus it would cost at least \$250,000 in additional operating (personnel) costs each year. Bussler said the proposals received from potential contractors were for only \$100,000. Whittow felt we should spend more time evaluating whether this can go back on the tax rolls. Bussler said on the other hand, if the County has to purchase land for County use, it would not only cost taxpayer money to purchase the land but they would also be taken off the tax rolls. She noted the current Huber facility is also slated to be razed in the future.

Paulson felt it was important the County maintain this land and was opposed to razing additional affordable homes when additional jail space will likely be needed in the future. He also concurred with staff that there is not adequate parking currently and that problem will only be exaggerated if the building remains in its current location and it is rehabbed. He noted the historical aspects of the building are long gone.

Zaborowski spoke in support of the demolition. He did not think the historical significance was relevant and it would be foolish to sell County land in a prosperous, growing county.

Nelson asked if the jail could be expanded upward. Bussler said no. There are height restrictions due to the proximity of the airport and the jail is currently at the maximum allowable height and expanding outward would require additional parking. Parking ramps were considered at one point but eliminated as an option due to the high cost. Nelson said he would prefer to wait one more year and do a new RFP that would be more “open-ended” otherwise the City could argue the County did not make a good-faith effort. He did suggest razing the non-historic portion of the building to make room for additional parking and request the developers absorb that cost of about \$1 million. Bussler replied those spaces would be needed for County use. Nelson suggested inviting interested developers to discuss proposals/options. He said many likely chose not to bid because their options were limited; the RFP was specific in that the building had to be moved and the land was not for sale. He did not feel the RFP was a good faith proposal. Nelson said we are missing an opportunity to save taxpayer money. Nelson spoke of tax credits for the developers whereby Paulson said those tax credits are taxpayer money.

Highum said the demolition would not cost \$3 million as there is a big market for historical items such as the bricks. He did not believe there was any harm in selling the land as the County has plenty of land, including the golf course which routinely loses money each year. Paulson noted there will be more objections to taking the golf course than there is for razing this building.

Morris spoke in support of the demolition in the event the County needs the land in the future.

Heinrich spoke highly of the County’s RFP process and felt we “open Pandora’s box” each time somebody doesn’t agree with the outcome.

MOTION: Morris moved, second by Paulson to express support for Capital Project #13 – Demolish Former H&HS Building. Motion 4-3. Whittow, Highum and Nelson voted no.

**#18 (CTH M, CTH YY to East County Line)** – Bussler said this project is as planned with the design to begin in 2015 and construction in 2018. The total project cost is \$17 million and over \$10 million in federal funds are expected. This project is the first step of two concurrent projects for the expansion of North Avenue. The second project will be constructed in 2019.

To answer Heinrich’s question, Evans said the expansion will not extend to Barker Road as the traffic volume decreases quite a bit west of Calhoun.

Highum, who lives in the district, felt the traffic counts provided by staff were high and therefore, the expansion unnecessary. He felt the corridor is in good shape, there are no opportunities for new businesses there, and the project is a waste of taxpayer dollars. He was also concerned that some property owners will lose portions of their land and it will lessen the aesthetics of the area. Evans

indicated the corridor has already been dedicated and therefore, not much land will need to be purchased. He felt the impact on property owners will be minimal and the tree line Highum described will remain relatively untouched. Evans said there were 66 injury crashes on that corridor over a three-year period which is significant. He described aspects of the expansion which will improve safety and reduce crashes by about 25%. Delays that occur on side roads will also decrease. Highum felt the traffic signals could be changed to allow for better traffic patterns. Evans replied in some instances, yes, but there is only so much time available to make an intersection work efficiently and it is limited by the number of lanes and turn lanes. Right turn lanes will improve traffic flow.

Whittow, who travels the corridor often, disagreed with Highum and described it as a somewhat major corridor that has significant gridlock at certain times of the day which he explained in detail. He felt the expansion will help area businesses economically as well such as Ruby Isle, etc. Bussler noted that the mayor and former mayor of the City of Brookfield along with other city officials support the expansion.

To answer Paulson's question, Bussler indicated based on the length of the corridor, crash data, and traffic counts, this project "earned" the federal funds. Evans noted of all the requests, this was the top scoring project in the region. Paulson was concerned with the overall cost of the project but said nearby Bluemound Road was at capacity so a need exists for an additional east-west corridor in that area.

MOTION: Highum moved, second by Paulson to express support for Capital Project #18. Motion carried 6-1. Highum voted no.

**#32 (CTH O, I-94 to USH 18)** – Bussler said this is the only new big project in the Capital Projects Plan (\$500,000 in 2019) which involves replacing pavement on Moorland Road in front of Brookfield Square. She anticipates federal funds will be applied for and awarded due to the condition of the pavement, and are included in the budget. Evans explained the project in detail. Heinrich commented Brookfield Square is a big taxpayer for the County. He felt timing the project was important and that the Thanksgiving/Christmas shopping season be taken into consideration.

MOTION: Morris moved, second by Paulson to express support for Capital Project #32. Motion carried 7-0.

MOTION: Highum moved, second by Paulson to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Zaborowski  
Secretary